

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A Family Wide Pastoral Council

As I have mentioned previously we will be moving to a Family Wide Pastoral Council made up of 3 members from each of our four wonderful parishes (12 members total). This will happen in January of 2024. There will be two members from each parishes current pastoral council and one new member who will be nominated by any of you who in the pews. Then selected from the nominations by each individual council. There will be nomination forms at the back of each church that you can fill out and drop in the collection or at the parish office. We will also have the nomination form link that you can access on each parish's website and the link will also be on the Facebook page and sent through Flocknote.

People that you nominate you should prayerfully think about if they have the interests of St. Joseph, Pillar of Families Parishes, their pastor/priests, and their particular parish all at heart. That they would be able to help us continue to move Beacons forward. They should be people of prayer who are seeking to be deeper friends with Jesus. As our parishes are ordered toward the salvation of souls which ultimately means becoming friends of Christ for all of eternity.

This adjustment will help to orient our pastoral council towards a Family of Parishes mindset while also respecting the individual identity of each of our churches. It will also make it easier for me to field concerns and ideas as right now with 30 plus members of pastoral council it is extraordinarily hard to listen and process so many viewpoints. Now obviously our pastoral council members need to bring a variety of viewpoints and the viewpoints of all parishioners. So to be clear I want that to continue but this move will help me to better hear and process opinions. As this is the feedback I have heard from other pastors and Families of Parishes that have already moved to Family Pastoral Council.

Again, how it will work for large expenditures and other items that need official approval for an individual parish is as follows: The 3 pastoral council members from Parish A, the head of the finance committee from Parish A, and the head of the buildings and grounds committee from Parish A will make up the executive pastoral council for Parish A that will vote on the matter listed above. Meaning the Family Pastoral will NOT be making official financial approvals for individual parishes.

I hope this refresher helps to explain how all of this will work and put to rest some fears I have heard from people. I am so thankful for the amazing job our pastoral councils continue to do in giving me feedback and aiding me as pastor. Thank them for their service if you get the chance.

Also, please note that Tuesday, August 15 is the Solemnity of the Assumption which is a holy day of obligation. Vigil Masses on Monday, August 14 will be: 6 PM at Ss. Peter & Paul (SPP), 7 PM at Holy Angels (HA), and 7:30 PM at Sacred Heart (SHJ). Masses on Tuesday, August 15 will be: 5 AM at SHJ, 7 AM at HA, 7 AM at SPP, 8 AM at SHJ, 8:25 AM at St. Michael (SM), 8:30 AM at HA, 11:40 AM at HA, 7 PM at SHJ, 7 PM at SM. Mark your calendars for the Mass that will work best for you and your family. Please share Facebook posts about the Mass times and remind each other of this beautiful solemnity on which we celebrate our Blessed Mother.

Thank you to all of our amazing employees they have been doing amazing with all of the moves and transitions. I am so grateful for each of them and their dedication to our parishes and our Lord. They are simply the best!

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Jarred Kohn

THE VICAR'S CORNER:

Fr. Andrew Reckers

Why Should I Give to the Church?

About half a year ago, I wrote a Vicar's Corner article on a precept of the Catholic Church: To provide for the material needs of the Church. This precept tells Catholics that they are obliged to financially assist the Church, but many still wonder why. Of course, the topic of financial giving can be a contentious one for many people, so it can sometimes be difficult to give a satisfactory answer to those who ask this question. Such an undertaking would require at least one good book, and likely several. Instead, the purpose of this short article is far more modest: To provide a brief reflection on some of the reasons for why a Catholic should follow the precept to provide for the material needs of the Church.

In my previous article, I quoted Canon 222 from the 1983 Code of Canon Law that deals with the precept mentioned above. To review, the first section of Canon 222 states, "The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers." So, we can see three basic reasons for why a Catholic should provide for the Church. Each of these reasons deserves further discussion.

First, it is necessary for the Christian faithful to provide for the needs of the Church so that God can be appropriately worshiped and duly honored in the liturgy. Here, we shouldn't want to settle for the bare minimum, for the first and greatest commandment that Jesus teaches us is, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength (Mark 12:30)." Moreover, all the beautiful things we experience in the liturgy aid us in prayerfully worshipping God with a profound sense of the sacred, including the beautiful art and architecture of the church building, the glorious organ to support majestic and reverent sacred music, and the precious sacred vessels to hold our Eucharistic Lord. All of these things require the financial support of the Christian faithful.

Second, the Church has a mission to aid the poor (see, for example, Matthew 25:31-46) and to "make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19)." Both of these efforts require material assistance from the Christian faithful. Of course, it is obvious that the poor need physical things to survive such as food, clothing, and shelter. But the apostolic efforts of the Church to evangelize the nations also requires material assistance in many ways. Some examples include the costs needed to train missionary disciples (lay, religious, and clergy), and the costs needed to support their mission and, in many cases, living expenses.

This brings us to the third reason why financially supporting the Church is necessary: For the decent support of ministers. For example, the Church wisely prohibits priests from working in secular professions in order to free them from a powerful source of worldly distractions and concerns. It should be obvious that priests who try to work in some other profession would be both bad at their priestly ministry, and bad at their professions, because their hearts would be divided. However, this means that they must be supported by the Church, and as Jesus teaches, "the laborer deserves his payment (Luke 10:7)."

Ultimately, the best motive for supporting the Church is charity, or love. It is a good and practical way to follow both of the two Great Commandments that Jesus teaches: To love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength; and to love your neighbor as yourself. True love means willing the good of the other for the sake of the other. We live in a physical world and have physical needs, so it is good to help provide for the physical needs of the Church. May God bless you for prayerfully reading this, and may He inspire you to give even more generously to His Church.